

Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety
Meeting Minutes Summary
Location: Bellevue, WA
April 10, 2002

Present

Chuck Mosher, Chair
Lee A. James
Duane Henderson
Richard Gilda
Grant Jensen
Les Olsen
Don Evans
Brad Rosewood

Absent

Alan J. Cabodi
Sarah Spence
Harry "Jay" Follman

Committee member vacancy:

Prior to the meeting, Committee member Laura Parson sent the members a letter of resignation. Ms. Parson's position on the Committee will need to be refilled through appointment by the Governor's Office.

***NOTE: There was no public comment during the April meeting.**

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Adoption of March 13, 2002 Meeting Minutes
2. Information from Tim Sweeney, WUTC Public Affairs Department
3. Department of Ecology Rulemaking Follow-up
4. Information on Damage Prevention Education for the General Public
5. Subcommittee Reports
6. Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) Pipeline Division Update

1. **Welcome and Adoption of March 13, 2002 Meeting Minutes** – Chairman Chuck Mosher welcomed everyone to the meeting of the Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety.
The Committee voted to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2002 with two modifications:
 1. Page two – The name is spelled Berkshire, not Burkshire.
 2. Page four – Chuck Mosher was present for the subcommittee meeting.

2. **Information from Tim Sweeney, WUTC Public Affairs Department** – As a request from the Pipeline Public Awareness subcommittee at the March meeting, Tim Sweeney was asked to talk with the Committee about what the WUTC Public Affairs Department. Specifically, the Committee wanted to know what the Public Affairs Department does and any assistance they could provide to the Committee. Tim explained some of the main functions of the department, for instance, handling media calls regarding utilities and consumer issues; press releases for Commission hearings and rulemakings; maintenance of the WUTC webpage in which the Citizens Committee website is located. He told the Committee about a news publication that the Public Affairs Department distributes quarterly by mail and e-mail that highlights current consumer issues. Tim stated that elected officials, industry, citizens and consumers receive the newsletter. He also noted that the Call-Before-You-Dig “message” and the phone number (800-424-5555) are run periodically in the Commission newsletter.

Next, Tim wanted to know ideas that the Committee had that he could help them with, either on a public education or media aspect.

- Governor proclaimed, state sponsored “Damage Prevention Day” (could possibly coincide with “Pipeline Safety Education Day” or week. Run public service announcements (PSAs) and an article in newspapers and the Commission newsletter. Set up information booths somewhere and have available a fact sheet regarding the new WUTC pipeline safety program, Call-Before-You-Dig paraphernalia and possibly a short video on the same subject to show at the booth. Tim wanted to make note of the increased call volume that the media attention would bring to the locate call centers and wants to make sure the centers are prepared to handle the volume.
- The Committee wanted Tim to follow-up with the telephone directory companies to find out if the Call-Before-You-Dig number will be displayed more prominently in the phonebook. It was noted that a letter was sent the directory companies from Chairwoman Showalter urging them to do this, but it was also explained that the companies that do this are not regulated companies.
- Press releases on Committee meetings and there recent actions. Could also then promote the Call-Before-You-Dig number.

Les Olsen moved to refer all of these issues to the Pipeline Public Awareness Committee for further action. Brad Rosewood, chair of this subcommittee said that he would contact Tim Sweeney to discuss these issues further.

3. **Department of Ecology Rulemaking Follow-up** – Rebecca Post, Pipeline Coordinator with the Department of Ecology (DOE), was following-up with the Committee about the DOE’s Contingency Plan rulemaking. Information was presented to the Committee at the February meeting and Rebecca summarized the intent of the rulemaking, which is to put into rule some current benchmark guidelines. Rebecca then summarized the timeline and next steps for the rulemaking:

- After draft language is written, the public and industry representatives will have an opportunity to comment on the draft language at the end of May.

- Also towards the end of May, the DOE will form an advisory committee to work on the rulemaking. DOE would like to have a Citizens Committee member on the advisory committee.
- Either at the May or June Citizens Committee meeting, the DOE will have more information on the “controversial” issues that the Committee can help work out. Volunteers for the DOE rulemaking advisory board could also be taken at that time.

4. **Information on Damage Prevention Education for the General Public** – Don Evans, Committee member and Executive Administrator of the Underground Utilities Location Center (UULC), spoke with the Committee about the types of education the UULC does for promoting the “Call-Before-You-Dig” message to the general public. Don distributed packets that illustrated some of ways that the law (RCW 19.122) and the 800 number is advertised.

Promotional Materials

Stickers, calendars, pencils, keychains, etc. are distributed to the public.

Radio Advertisements

30 second spot that appeals to “customers” of Call-Before-You-Dig during Mariner post game shows. (Every fourth show).

Television Advertisements

UULC will run 420 “Call-Before-You-Dig” messages that will reach over 2.3 million households on the Northwest Cable News (NWCN) channel during the months of March – August 2002. Don showed a video of the commercial to the Committee at the meeting. Les Olsen suggested making copies of the video to distribute to cities and counties for them to put on the local access television channels.

Internet

The commercial message mentioned above also directed viewers to the UULC website for more information. Since January 2002, over 700,000 ads for UULC have been viewed by visitors to king5.com and nwcn.com. The marketing objectives for the radio, television, and internet focused on these four messages:

1. Call before you dig, it’s the law.
2. Call two business days ahead
3. Safety
4. 800-424-5555 One-call locate number

Bill Inserts

The UULC also promotes their message and the 800 number with bill inserts (PSE and Seattle Public Utilities)

Print

Numerous publications in Seattle area newspapers that mention the 800 number in articles relating to home and garden improvement.

County Fairs

The UULC has booths at county fairs across the state where they distribute promotional items and information.

Billboards

There are currently two billboards in Whatcom County. The UULC is currently seeking a sponsor for placing an additional 50 billboards near the freeway corridor from Canada to Oregon.

5. **Subcommittee Reports** - The Washington State Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety subcommittees met individually and then reported back to the group as a whole.

Damage Prevention Subcommittee -

Chair, Don Evans Members - Duane Henderson, Richard Gilda

- Action Item: The Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety will request the Washington Utilities Coordinating Council (WUCC) to update and reissue their digging guidelines booklet by sending them a letter.
- Action Item: Follow-up with public access channels to show a homeowner type video that the UULC will work on creating.
- Draft a letter to Washington State permitting agencies urging them to create a local ordinance, similar to Whatcom County, that will create a place on the building permit form for a locate ticket number.

Pipeline Safety Public Awareness Subcommittee –

Chair, Brad Rosewood Members – Les Olsen

- Subcommittee met with Tim Sweeney (WUTC Public Affairs Dept.). Plan to meet before the next Committee meeting with Tim, Rebecca Post and WUTC Geographic Information System (GIS) analyst to plan a statewide citizen informational brochure on pipelines.
- The Subcommittee will look into grants and other means to fund the brochure and other projects.
- Plan to look into PSAs and videos for local access channels on pipeline safety.
- Proposed to go ahead with the “Pipeline Safety and Education Day” this year. Suggested having the day proclaimed by the Governor and possibly some other type of commemoration on the anniversary of the Bellingham tragedy in June. Next year, the subcommittee would like to see a “Pipeline Safety Awareness Week” proclaimed with events planned across the state. Chuck Mosher emphasized that the proclaimed Pipeline Safety Day or Week should highlight the accomplishments in the area of pipeline regulation reform.

Legislative/Input/Monitoring –

Chair, Lee James Members, Jay Follman (Absent), Chuck Mosher & Grant Jensen (Absent)

- Be proactive and start talking to legislators now to find out what the Committee can do to help get a damage prevention bill into the 2003 legislative session. Action Item: Subcommittee would like to get Representative Kelli Linville and Senator Harriet Spanel to come talk to the Committee about their efforts in damage prevention.

Lee mentioned how Carol Jolly, with the Governor's office, is considering reconvening the Fuel Accident Prevention and Response Team (FAPRT) to look at the damage prevention issue.

- Lee and Chuck will be drafting an annual report for the Committees review. The report will have a citizen and industry tone and will include such topics as:
 - ✓ History of pipelines in Washington state
 - ✓ Legislative action (Federal and State)
 - ✓ WUTC Pipeline Safety Activities
 - ✓ Future goals of the Committee
- They would like to have a draft for the Committees review by the next meeting.
- Informed the Committee that the federal House portion of the pipeline safety bill is wrapped up with the energy bill.
- Plan to be involved in the DOE contingency plan rulemaking.

6. **Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) Pipeline Division Update** – Doug Kilpatrick, Director of the WUTC Pipeline Safety Division, provided information to the Committee on the inspections that were completed in 2001. This information was requested to give the Committee further information for use in the annual report. The Committee would look over the information and either e-mail Doug any questions or bring those questions to the next meeting. The Committee plans to look for statistical trends within the reports that Doug distributed. Doug mentioned that he would try to get Scott Rukke, Pipeline Safety Engineer, to give a presentation to the Committee on what the WUTC inspectors do on an inspection with a pipeline company. Doug also distributed information on the API recommended practices (power point presentation).

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m. on Wednesday April 10, 2002.